

Lexicon of Terms

End user—Persons and organizations who are responsible for implementing risk reduction activities; those who receive and use the results of the professional work products of practicing engineers and geotechnical scientists, researchers, etc., including school teachers, emergency response and building officials, insurance and construction companies, homeowners, and the general public.

Hazard—An act or phenomenon that has the potential to produce harm or other undesirable consequences to some person or thing.

Hazardous structure—A structure or edifice whose condition creates an imminent danger of physical injury, harm, or damage to some person or thing within or nearby it.

Nonstructural hazard—A condition or phenomenon in an edifice or structure, such as non-load-bearing architectural elements and mechanical and electrical components of the building system, that is unrelated to its construction or structure that has the potential to produce harm or other undesirable consequences to some person or thing within or nearby it.

Risk—The probability that the potential harm or undesirable consequences of a hazard will be realized; the convolution of the hazard and the vulnerability.

Risk management—The evaluation of alternative risk control actions,

selection among them (including doing nothing), and their implementation. Includes predicting damaging events and their effects, and reducing the vulnerability of facilities, improving emergency response and recovery, etc.

Seismic safety—The condition of being reasonably free or secure from earthquake-related danger, harm, injury, or economic loss.

Stakeholders—Individuals, agencies, and entities, in both the private and the public sectors, with earthquake-related responsibilities who have significant influence on seismic risk management efforts.

Structural hazard—A structural condition or phenomenon, such as parts of a building that bear vertical gravity loads or lateral seismic forces, or both, in an edifice or structure that has the potential to produce harm or other undesirable consequences to some person or thing within or nearby it.

User—Persons and organizations who are responsible for formulating risk reduction activities; those who use and communicate their knowledge in their professional work products including government policy makers, practicing engineers and geotechnical scientists, researchers, etc.

Vulnerability—Susceptibility to physical injury, harm, damage, or economic loss.